IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-10 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. (Currently amended) A γ-proteobacterium ~~having an ability to produce a target substance and~~ modified so that ~~an~~ the production of ArcA protein ~~does not normally function~~ is reduced or eliminated, wherein said γ-proteobacterium has an improved ability to produce a target substance synthesized via the tricarboxylic acid cycle as compared to a wild-type γ-proteobacterium.

2. (Currently amended) The γ-proteobacterium according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said ArcA protein ~~that normally functions~~ is selected from the group consisting of~~a protein defined in the following (A) or (B)~~:

(A) a protein ~~having~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32; and

(B) a protein ~~having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32 including substitution, deletion, insertion or addition of one or several amino acids and improving an ability to produce a target substance when the protein does not normally function in the γ proteobacterium compared with the case where the protein normally functions~~ comprising up to 10 amino acid substitutions, deletions, or insertions in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

3. (Currently amended) The γ-proteobacterium according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said ArcA protein is selected from the group consisting of: ~~that normally functions is a protein having 70% or more of homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32 and improving an ability to produce a target substance when the protein does not normally function in the γ proteobacterium compared with the case where the protein normally functions.~~

(A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32; and

(B) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 32.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The γ-proteobacterium according to claim 1, wherein said production of the ArcA protein is reduced or eliminated ~~does not normally function~~ by ~~means of~~ disruption of an *arcA* gene on a chromosome.

6. (Currently amended) The γ-proteobacterium according to claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ said *arcA* gene is selected from the group consisting of:~~DNA defined in the following (a) or (b):~~

(a) DNA containing the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide number 101 to 817 of SEQ ID NO: 31; and

(b) DNA which is able to hybridize ~~hybridizable~~ with the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 101 to 817 of SEQ ID NO: 31 ~~or a probe that can be produced from the nucleotide sequence~~ under ~~the~~ stringent ~~condition~~ conditions comprising washing at a salt concentration of 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65° C~~and coding for a protein that improves an ability to produce a target substance when the protein does not normally function compared with the case where the protein normally functions~~.

7. (Currently amended) The γ-proteobacterium according to claim 1, ~~which is~~comprising a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*.

8. (Currently amended) The γ-proteobacterium according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said target substance ~~is~~ comprises an L-amino acid.

9. (Currently amended) The γ-proteobacterium according to claim 8, wherein ~~the~~ said L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, ~~or~~ L-glutamic acid, L-arginine, and L-threonine.

10. (Currently amended) A method for producing a target substance synthesized via the tricarboxylic acid cycle~~, which comprises~~ comprising:

(a) culturing the γ-proteobacterium according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 in a medium ~~to produce and accumulate the target substance in the medium or cells~~; and

(b) collecting ~~the~~ said target substance from the ~~medium or cells~~ culture.